(MOU), wherever required, is entered into with State Governments in this regard. Names of such 39 airports are Behala, Jharsuguda, Malda, Port Blair, Jammu, Leh, Kota, Dehradun, Ludhiana, Warangal, Vijaywada, Rajahmundry, Tirupathi, Cuddapah, Mysore, Belgaum, Hubli, Madurai, Tiruchirapalli, Coimbatore, Tuticorin, Vellore, Agatti, Bhavnagar, Kandla, Porbandar, Jabalpur, Goa, Pune, Jamnagar, Akola, Along, Daparizo, Zeero, Kamalpur, Kailashahar, Bagdogra, Jorhat and Tezu.

Reduction of airfare

1582. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has advised to various airlines to reduce their air fare;

(b) if so, the reaction of the private airlines;

(c) whether Government has also directed the airlines particularly Low Cost airlines, to give compensation to their passengers for delay or cancellation of flights for technical or other reasons; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Airlines thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Air fares are not being regulated by the Government. Airlines are free to charge air fares as per the market forces. Now, with decreasing prices of ATF the Airlines have started reducing fares. However, Airlines are also affected by the global financial downturn of the economy.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, full service airlines provide adequate facilities to the passengers which include provision of food, hotel accommodation, conveyance, cash compensation, etc. as per their company policy in vogue. Low cost airlines also provide refreshments to passengers in case the flight is delayed more than two hours.

Air facilities in North East

1583. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the status of implementation of the proposal for introducing a regional air services dedicated to the North Eastern Region (NER);

(b) by when it is likely to be operated;

(c) whether his Ministry has planned to increase the number and frequency of flights to various locations of the NER;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the operational status of the flying club at Guwahati and about the Pilot Training Institute being established with the funding of North East Council (NEC)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Government has granted initial NOC to ZAV Air to operate scheduled regional air services within Eastern and North-Eastern region. The operator has yet to submit their papers indicating their plan of operations.

(c) to (e) Government has laid down route dispersal guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country including North-East region. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. As such, the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines issued by Government.

At present, scheduled domestic airlines are operating 304 flights/week to/from North-East region.

(f) The present Assam Flying Club at Guwahati has been approved by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). However, the flying club is non-functional due to non-availability of Chief Flying Instructor. Flying school is proposed to be established by North East Council (NEC) at Lilabari for which the necessary formalities are under process by DGCA, North Eastern Council (NEC) and Government of Assam.

Monopolies and restrictive trade practice commission

1584. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases registered by the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practice Commission (MRTPC) during the last two years;

(b) the number of cases disposed of during the above period;

(c) the details of difficulties being faced by the MRTPC in their functioning;

(d) whether Government proposes to bail-out MRTPC for smooth functioning; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) and (b) A Statement is attached (*See* below).

(c) to (e) The Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission (MRTPC) is satisfactorily discharging responsibilities assigned to the Commission under the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969.

Statement

Position with regards to various types of cases registered/pending with MRTPC since 1.1.2006

Year	Enquiries	Pendency at the beginning of the year	Cases registered/ instituted during the year	Cases disposed of during the year	Cases pending at the end of the year
1	2	3	4	5	6
2006	RTPE	338	73	104	307
01.01.2006	UTPE	606	149	172	583
to	MTPE	5	0	0	5
31.12.2006	CA	1147	176	213	1110